

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3 and 5 and AMEND claims 1, 4, and 6-8 in accordance with the following:

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1. (currently amended) A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, the network system including a plurality of client terminals and server terminals providing services to those client terminals via a network, the relaying apparatus comprising:

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a plurality of route load measuring units each provided in, or in the vicinity of, each of said server terminals and each measuring a respective load in a route from the route load measuring unit to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals; and

a selecting unit which selects one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the load measured by said route load measuring units, wherein each of said route load measuring units monitors operating states of respective server terminal and when a request for service is received from said one client terminal, said selecting unit selects one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the load and the operating states monitored by said load measuring units, wherein operating states include idle and active states,

wherein said route load measuring units each measures, as the load, an effective bandwidth of the route, the effective bandwidth estimated based on a plurality of parameters, wherein the parameters include at least a round-trip time, a maximum segment size, and an average congestion window size.

2. (previously presented) The relaying apparatus for use in a network system according to Claim 1, further comprising a storing unit which stores the load measured at a pre-specified time interval by each of said route load measuring units, and wherein

when a request for service is received from said one client terminal, said selecting unit selects said one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for

service from said one client terminal based on the load stored in the storing unit.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, the network system including a plurality of client terminals and server terminals that are divided into several groups each having at least two of the server terminals and that provide services to those client terminals via a network, the relaying apparatus comprising:

a plurality of route load measuring units in, or in the vicinity of, each of said server terminals, each provided with respect to each of the groups and each measuring a respective load in a route from the route load measuring unit to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals; and

CI a selecting unit which selects one route load measuring unit out of said route load measuring units as a primary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the load measured by said route load measuring units,

said one route load measuring unit selects one server terminal out of the server terminals in the group as a secondary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal, wherein each said route load measuring units monitors operating states of the respective server terminals in the group, and said one route load measuring unit selects one server terminal out of the server terminals in the group based on the operating states when selecting the secondary destination, and

said route load measuring units each measures, as the load, an effective bandwidth of the route, the effective bandwidth estimated based on a plurality of parameters, wherein the parameters include at least a round-trip time, a maximum segment size, and an average congestion window size.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, the network system including a plurality of client terminals and server terminals that are divided into several groups each having at least two of the server terminals and that provide services to those client terminals via a network, the relaying apparatus comprising:

a plurality of route load measuring units in, or in the vicinity of, each of said server terminals, each provided with respect to each of the groups, each measuring a respective load

in a route from the route load measuring unit to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals and monitoring operating states of said server terminals in each group; and

a selecting unit which selects one route load measuring units out of said route load measuring units as a primary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the load measured and the operating states monitored by said route load measuring units where operating states include idle and active states, wherein

said one route load measuring unit selects based on the operating states one server terminal out of the several server terminals in the group as a secondary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal, wherein operating states include idle and active states, and

C) said route load measuring units each measures, as the ~~the~~-load, an effective bandwidth of the route, the effective bandwidth estimated based on a plurality of parameters, wherein the parameters include at least a round-trip time, a maximum segment size, and an average congestion window size.

7. (currently amended) A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, which network system is formed with a plurality of client terminals and server terminals providing services to the client terminals via a network, comprising:

a plurality of path load measuring and operating state monitoring devices in, or in the vicinity of, each of said server terminals, arranged to measure effective bandwidths of path loads from a client terminal requesting service to server terminals wherein the effective bandwidth is based on a plurality of parameters and wherein the parameters include at least a round-trip time, a maximum segment size, and an average congestion window size and to monitor operating states of server terminals wherein the operating states include idle and active states; and

a DNS-responding device to compare effective bandwidths of measurements of path loads from the plurality of path load measuring and operating state monitoring devices to the client terminal and to select a server terminal having a largest effective bandwidth and an active operating state to provide service to the client terminal.

8. (currently amended) A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, which network system is formed with a plurality of client terminals and server terminals providing services to the client terminals via a network, comprising:

a plurality of path load measuring and operating state monitoring devices in, or in the

vicinity of, each of said server terminals, arranged to measure, as loads in paths from a client terminal requesting service to server terminals, effective bandwidths of the paths wherein the effective bandwidth is based on a plurality of parameters and wherein the parameters include at least a round-trip time, a maximum segment size, and an average congestion window size and to monitor operating states of server terminals wherein the operating states include idle and active states; and

OK a DNS-responding device to compare the effective bandwidths measured by the path load measuring and operating state monitoring devices and to select a server terminal having a largest effective bandwidth and an active operating state to provide service to the client terminal.

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